

## THRILLING CHECK AND CHECK RACE IN SWIFT WINDUP OF GREAT CONTEST

Johnson, there never was a chance for him, as has been told in these despatches.

The shrewd and experienced men who have played the check and check game here and many of the shrewdest visitors forewarned that Wood's impetuous intrusion into the States of the favorite son, together with his tolerance of unheard of money spending, had ruined his opportunity.

Bygone are bygone and past mortals are as unprofitable in politics as in poker. But there are some men who say to-night that Wood might have won his campaign being regarded by the feelings of Wood's rivals and had money not been thrown to the birds.

The latter mistake wrecked Lowden. In his case the conduct of his managers was as fatal as the well known but runners effort of Burdard for Blair.

And as for Johnson, the truth is that 1916 would not down—that singular plurality cast for Wilson in Johnson's State when Johnson was elected Senator by more than 50,000—was the peg upon which a great majority of the delegates hung their fears of Johnson's radicalism.

From the day he permitted his name to be used in the Presidential contest, Senator Harding inflexibly pursued a definite policy of politeness and modesty and straight laced probity. The temptation to seek votes in Illinois, where Lowden was running, to vote for them in Massachusetts, where Wood's hopes lay, to compete for them in Washington against Pendergast, in New York against Butler, in Pennsylvania against Sprout, was strong. Harding rejected the temptations.

Offers of money to finance a pretentious campaign to the country were numerous. Harding could have had ten million dollars if he had cared to accept such aid. He did not. His campaign was thrifty, pursued with a basic knowledge of human nature and the honest belief that it was an evil thing for a man to seek the Presidency with brass bands and bare feet of gold.

These facts were quite familiar to the delegates who composed the convention. Harding's methods, having been somewhat unique in the primaries and the convention, were well advertised. Therefore when the conference of last night began immediately after the convention nearly finished its work on Friday, closing it in Chadwick and a sort of dull resentment, Harding's name inevitably came up for first consideration.

The list of possibilities was long. It included great names. It presented the personality and work of many able and excellent men. But of all the list Harding was the only name against which could not be checked some objection which seemed insuperable politically.

Hughes was rejected because it had been ascertained that Hiram Johnson would not accept him, and because in the minds of some of the Western leaders, the opinion stubbornly persisted that a man who permitted his campaign to be run so badly as Hughes's campaign was run in 1916 did not deserve another chance.

Sprout was eliminated because (one states the facts) the argument was raised that the Pennsylvania Railroad was behind his candidacy. He was rejected on the grounds that W. W. Atterbury, highly respected by all, nevertheless made the political mistake of standing sponsor for Sprout not only in the Pennsylvania delegation, but against the wishes and the interest of the wise Penrose, but here in Chicago.

Regretted to Pass by Allen. Gov. Allen of Kansas, high in favor with the Senate group who guided the convention and who arranged the program by putting the matter in the hands of a selected committee, precisely as The Sun and New York Herald had done, would not, however, be put aside because of the fear that the country as a whole was not quite ready for Allen's advanced labor policy and the industrial "punch he is trying off in his own State." They rejected Allen with real regret, but they decided that it had to be done as a measure of practical politics.

Lenroot was considered, and might have had a better chance if he had not shied in the dangerous and hot and go fight the other day over the treaty and League of Nations rejection plank. The Senators, all friends of the man from Wisconsin, turned thumbs down and said all together "He's lost" when Lenroot came up for discussion.

He was a party to the agreement signed by all of the Republican Senators in Washington weeks before the convention met, the agreement that the Harding and League must not be endorsed in the platform. Yet he was swayed by W. Murray Crane, who attempted to get the treaty and League plank, to vote for the agreement along with Senator Frank B. Kellogg of Minnesota. He was brought back into the fold, but his chances were killed.

Knox was talked of because it was known that Johnson would support him, but the situation in Pennsylvania, Penrose's illness, Knox's apparent indifference and the hostility of a certain faction disposed of him.

Butler was up for consideration, but his chance was crippled at the very start by the absurd position in his own State—a divided, discordant, leaderless delegation. Then, too, the rather silly argument that the country never would tolerate another college president played a part, as well as the vivid recollection of the radicals who had been driven fairly active for Mr. Taft back in 1912.

Pendergast never was in the running. He was Senator Substantiel nor General Coleman du Pont. Hoover scarcely mentioned. Burdard was too valuable that not to be wasted.

All Roads Led to Harding. Every discussion threw them back upon Harding, the only candidate against whom somebody's pistol was not pointed or somebody's dagger aimed. It returned from 8 P. M. on Friday to 4 A. M. this morning. But they got the necessary consent of candidates and the invaluable cooperation of their leaders and delegation chairman. It was obtained. Assurance was had when the Senate leaders went to bed at daylight that Harding would be in the lead of both Lowden and Wood before many ballots had been taken.

Not enough votes were in sight to guarantee nomination on any designated ballot, though one must say that Senator New of Indiana came pretty close when he "guessed" it would be the ninth, and Reed Smoot was not far off when he ventured the eleventh as his prediction. The point was politically, psychologically that a Harding was had been started, the sort of wave which was not likely to be stopped in a situation such as this, where the delegates were to the bone eager to end the struggle that was getting nowhere between Lowden and Wood, and anxious to settle on a man unsmirched in any way.

There were two ticklish situations to be met. The first was how to kill off a friend painlessly and how to destroy any fancy Lowden and Wood and his friends stubbornly insisted that Lowden could be nominated if the delegates would

## Old Printer's Rule Is Harding's "Luck Piece"

WHEN Warren G. Harding entered the United States Senate he was superstitious enough to carry with him what the printer's country boys call the best "luck piece" ever possessed by a member of the upper branch of Congress. It is the old printer's rule he used when he was down in the ranks "sticking type."

take their time. What Lowden demanded was an endorsement contest. He of Kentucky and John T. King of Connecticut were the leaders of this type. They carried a last chance. They called for every inch of rope the Senate leaders would give them. Moreover, they were in a position to make a strong case for their rank was strength that must be had to nominate Harding. Their appeal was granted.

Lowden Gets His Final Chance. At 4 A. M. Hart and King were told that the consensus in the group made up of Senators New and Watson of Indiana, Senator Curtis of Kansas, Senator Smoot of Utah, Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, Senator Borah of Idaho, Senator Wadsworth of New York, together with Gov. Allen of Kansas, was that Lowden could not win and that it would be too dangerous to have him win, but that if he could get the support of the free and uncommitted delegates he was welcome to try. The result is known.

As for Wood, the Senate leaders were up against the not too weak question of loyalty in politics. Wood's strength was strong, and it may be stated that delegations instructed for Wood but actually desiring another candidate extended their instructions in many instances. New of Indiana instructed his delegates to vote for Wood, but that Lowden was to be supported, although it was New who stood out in the convention as the "original" Harding man and who had sent out a hand in the delicate negotiations that led to general agreement on Harding.

The leaders feared that Frank Hitchcock had instilled into the Wood forces the spirit of sticking to the last gasp and they correctly reckoned that Wood was not a man who would give up until he was actually seen to be going to pieces. To accomplish that end they used the Lowden force, putting it into the hands of the delegates, giving Lowden the last chance and manipulating the Lowden strength to disintegrate the Wood forces.

That is precisely the way it worked out. Despite Hitchcock's most intelligent generalship, Lowden first made a mistake on the Wood strength—weakness it was not. Then it was possible to divert a little of Lowden together with a little of Wood to Harding, and then, when the delegates in the right mood, it was easy to open the floodgates and let the torrent pour straight toward Harding, just as had been predicted, one killed off the other.

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CHICAGO, June 12.—Robert W. La Follette, United States Senator from Wisconsin, held his twenty-four votes from Wisconsin on the last ballot, and the convention and galleries hissed his delivery as usual.

La Follette was the only man who held his vote on the last ballot, and he was the only man who was hissed. He was the only man who was hissed.

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## Coliseum Crowd Is Wild Over Harding

Various odds and ends adjoined on the edge of the Coliseum at 11 P. M. Rebounding this morning followed a long night of turmoil and worry. When the delegates returned last night after ten restless hours, leaders as well as delegates and visitors were weary body and soul, ready to tumble down wherever they stood. But there was no rest for the men who felt that the responsibility of selecting the right sort of man and of holding the party rested upon their shoulders.

Early in the night the conference began at the Blackstone and the delegates. They touched every following of the party and the fortunes of every candidate. In one group were the men frankly set upon nominating Low